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(54) Fish bait package

(57) A fish bait package (1) is provided in the form of a sealed porous paper container formed from paper resistant to degradation in water and containing a quantity of fish bait. The container is preferably formed from heat sealable tea-bag material.

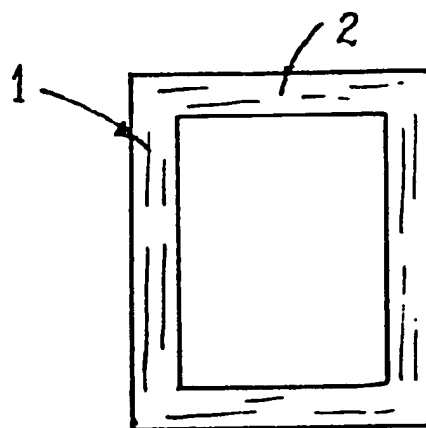
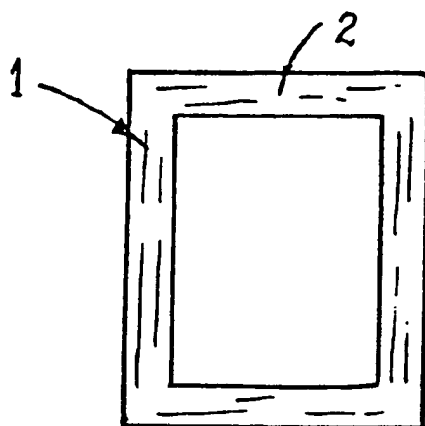
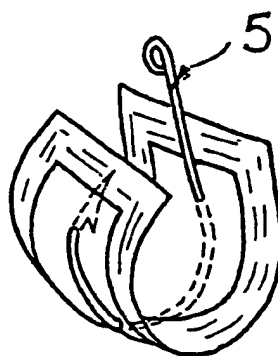


FIG. 1

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FIG. 1FIG. 2

SPECIFICATION

An Improved fish bait

5 This invention relates to fish bait and in particular to a novel form of packaged fish bait.

It is an object of the invention to provide a form of fish bait which will at least provide the public with a useful choice.

10 Accordingly the invention consists in a fish bait package comprising a sealed porous paper container of paper resistant to degradation in water having a quantity of fish bait therein.

To those skilled in the art to which the invention relates, many changes in construction and widely differing embodiments and applications of the invention will suggest themselves without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims. The disclosures and the descriptions herein are purely illustrative and are not intended to be in any sense limiting.

One preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

25 Figure 1 is a plan view of a fish bait package according to one preferred embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 2 is a schematic representation of the fish bait package depicted in figure 1 when provided on a fish hook.

Referring to the drawings, according to its most simple and preferred embodiment the invention provides a fish bait package 1 in the form of a sealed porous paper container containing a quantity of fish bait. The container is formed from HSTB paper which is porous, but is suitably reinforced so the bag will not deteriorate in water. The resulting bait package is of a consistent size and is thus able to be readily and easily used in automatic baiting techniques suitable for the

40 baiting of long line type fishing equipment. In the form shown in figure 1, the package indicated by reference numeral 1, is substantially rectangular in form and has dimensions of about 30-70mm (preferably 50mm) by about 20-60mm (preferably 40mm).

45 The package is preferably manufactured with one end 2 open to enable suitable fish bait to be placed therein, thereafter the open end being sealed by known manufacturing techniques, e.g. heat sealing.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention the paper comprises heat sealable tea-bag (HSTB) paper manufactured by the Crompton company of England and is preferably of a grading between 21-27.5 grams per square metre, this being considered an appropriate grade for use in relation to the purpose envisaged

55 for the invention. The bait used in a package of the type above described may be of any suitable type of fish bait, however it is preferred that the invention use bait processed from appropriate fish flesh of fish intestines. It is further preferred that the fish flesh and/or intestines be first frozen and dried before being particulated and powdered. Various types of fish are

considered as appropriate, including Mullus, Barracuda, Trevalli, Kahawai and possibly Octopus, Squid and Mussels. It will be appreciated however that other types of fish may be appropriate and one consideration in determining suitability is the smell of the bait when it is immersed in water in use.

In those embodiments where frozen and dried bait is used, the bait is preferably dried to less than 3% by weight of moisture content prior to packaging so that it has a reasonable shelf life. This enables the individual packaged baits to be provided in sealed bags or containers in lots of say 100 or 200 units.

70 The particulated or powdered fish material may, if desired, be appropriately blended with an alginate or some other solidifier so that the bait will be reconstituted as a glutinous mass about the hook when used. This will of course have advantages in retaining the bait on the hook in use.

For a package of the size above described up to 5 gms and preferably 1-2 gms of suitable bait are incorporated.

Once packaged the bait is ready for immediate use. 85 The package is, in use, baited on an appropriate hook as shown, or indeed in any other manner which may be appropriate. When the hook is inserted into the water, the bait within the package reconstitutes as a glutinous mass about the hook which is contained at all times within the package or bag 1.

Thus by this invention there is provided a fish bait in a sealed package which is particularly suitable for continuous baiting of fish hooks, and which provides a fish bait which goes at least some way towards overcoming the problems which have been previously experienced in the art.

While the package 1 has been described in a form which is particularly suitable for use on a fish hook, it is also envisaged that larger forms be provided suitable for use in nets or crayfish pots. Such an embodiment could, for example, be a rectangular bag of dimensions in the order of 125mm by 75mm and containing about 40-45 gms of bait.

The invention at least in the preferred form described herein, is believed to have the following advantages.

1. The bait is sealed into a bag of discrete size allowing for easy and clean handling.
2. The uniformity of size enables the bait package to be used effectively with automatic baiting systems,
3. The nature of the package is effective for retaining the bait in place on a hook.

CLAIMS

1. A fish bait package comprising a porous paper container of paper resistant to degradation in water having a quantity of fish bait therein.

2. A package as claimed in claim 1 wherein said paper is of a known type as heat sealable tea-bag material.

3. A package as claimed in claim 2 wherein said paper is of a grade within the range of 21-27.5 gsm.

4. A package as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said container is rectangular in form.

5. A package as claimed in any one of the

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preceding claims including up to 5 gms of bait.

6. A package as claimed in claim 5 including 1-2 gms of bait.

7. A package as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 including 40-45 gms of bait.

8. A package as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said bait is freeze dried fish flesh and/or intestine.

9. A package as claimed in claim 8 wherein said bait is particulated or powderised after drying.

10. A fish bait package when constructed arranged and operable substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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